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C.S.A. 4.04 Smith, Edward Ellis
Sec. 4.01.2 The Young Stalin

Parkersburg Native Claims Stalinism Continues to Live

By LARRY V. MURPHY
Of The News Staff

Although Stalin died over 15 years ago, his death having reportedly occurred on March 5, 1953, Stalinism (despite the claims of present Soviet rulers) lives on, according to Edward Ellis Smith, Parkersburg native, who is recognized as an authority on Soviet political life.

Smith, who was a visitor here the past week at the home of his mother, Mrs. Arley E. Smith, 681 19th St., received a pleasant surprise while in Parkersburg — a telegram notifying him that his latest book, "The Young Stalin" (subtitled, "The Early Years of an Elusive Revolutionary"), has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Commonwealth Club of California.

The Silver Medal (second place) award means that Smith's book is regarded by the 100-year-old Commonwealth Club as one of the best books written by California authors in 1967.

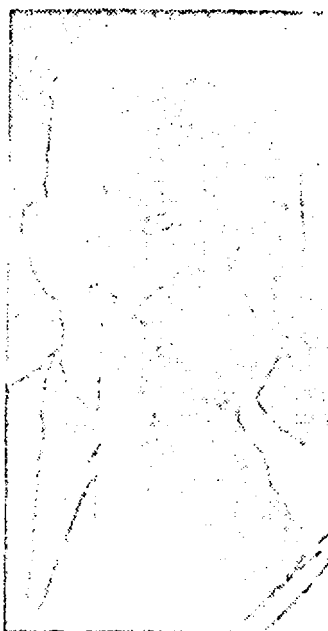
The organization is one of the civic and state-wide clubs in California, and its membership runs into thousands.

The significance of the honor is more apparent when one considers that thousands of authors gravitate toward California, and make it their home, and probably a thousand or more books by California authors were published last year.

Is Acclaimed in England

Although "The Young Stalin" was published only last Oct. 31, by Farrar, Straus and Giroux of New York, and was published simultaneously in Canada by Ambassador Books, Ltd., Rexdale, Ontario, over 5,000 copies of the American edition had been sold by the end of the year (during a two-month period).

This might not be considered remarkable were it not for the fact that it is not a low-priced book. It carries an \$8.50 price.



Edward Ellis Smith

"The Young Stalin" also was recently published by Corgi, Ltd. (London, England publishers), and reportedly received very good reviews in "The London Sunday Telegraph," "The Spectator," and "The Irish News."

The Italian language edition was published early this month under the title, "Stalin giovane," by Garzanti (publishers in Milano).

"They did a wonderful job in translating it into Italian," Smith said during his visit here, "a beautiful example of the publisher's art, too."

Legacy Won't Go Away

Smith, a Parkersburg High School graduate, class of 1939, and a graduate of West Virginia University, 1943, was the principal speaker Saturday a week ago, at the annual WVU Alumni Luncheon, in Morgantown, where he was attending the Silver Anniversary Reunion of his class.

He has served in various intelligence services of the United States, is expert in the Russian language. He resided and traveled widely in Russia from 1933 to 1950, served in the American Embassy in Moscow from 1950 to 1953, and has been associated with the U. S. Army, the C. I. A., and the Department of State.

Chatting informally while visiting in Parkersburg, and shortly before climbing aboard a plane at the Wood County Airport to head for a literary reception and a conference with his publisher in New York regarding publication plans for another biography, Smith said in reference to Stalin:

"The legacy of that disagreeable peck — marked, swarthy little man (he was five feet, four inches tall (will not go away — even today.)"

Has "Certain Credentials"

Ed, as his friends here still call him, still retains his sense of humor despite his sudden climb into literary prominence, and having achieved distinction as an author and lecturer.

"Someone has said that to

specialize in Soviet - Russian affairs is a non-habit forming occupation," he remarked.

"With that I agree heartily, as I do with the wisdom of my friend, the late Eddy Gilmore, Pulitzer prize winner and veteran correspondent in Moscow, who defined a Soviet Expert as one who had spent less than six weeks or more than 20 years in Russia.

"While I fail to qualify in either category, I do have certain credentials. First, I spent some years in Moscow at the depth of the cold war. Secondly, I returned after Stalin's death —

during Malenkov's and Khrushchev's reign — and had the opportunity to make certain comparisons."

Speaks of "Stalin's Ghost"

Ed says, "The Soviet poet, Yevtushenko, has written that Stalin's ghost still wanders about Russia... Not only does Stalin's ghost stalk Russia — it figuratively swaggers about the planet.

"Vietnam, for example, will go down in history — regardless of the outcome — as a situation that Stalin created from the tomb.

"The difficulties between the Kremlin Communists and the Chinese Communists center on Stalin," the author explains.

"Those in the Kremlin insist that Mao - Tse - Tung and Company are renegades, and the latter assert that the Soviet brethren have strayed from Stalin's teachings, which they regard as the truest and finest expression of Leninism.

"Of course," Ed continues, "this is all an exercise in dogmatic nonsense.

"Only a couple of weeks ago Alexander Solzhenitsyn, author of the revealing 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,' was threatened by Soviet authorities.

"Only a few weeks ago, writers in the USSR were tried and imprisoned for plying their trade; artists and musicians are forbidden their artistic outlets, and historians are still forced to falsify history.

"This," Smith points out, "is Stalinism!"